

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 03108 171106Z

10

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 084590

O R 171007Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3673

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3108

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MASS US ET

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON ETHIOPIAN AMMUNITION RESUPPLY

REF: ADDIS ABABA 3099

1. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER GETACHEW KIBRET CALLED ME IN NOON MARCH 17 TO REEMPHASIZE AND ELABORATE AFTER CONSULTATION WITH CHAIRMAN AND OTHER PMAC MEMBERS ON EPMG REACTIONS DESCRIBED IN REFTEL.

2. GETACHEW SAID PMAC IS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO ANY REFERENCE TO "DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS." THIS IS OBJECTIONABLE BECAUSE IT IMPLIES RECOGNITION OF THE ELF/PLF. MOREOVER, THERE ARE VARIOUS WAYS OF ARRIVING AT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT AND IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO SINGLE OUT THE "DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS" ALTERNATIVE. GETACHEW SAID THAT SUCH LANGUAGE MIGHT EVEN PREJUDICE ONGOING ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT NIMEIRI'S MEDIATION PROPOSAL. I ASKED GETACHEW AT THIS POINT WHETHER, ENTIRELY APART FROM ANY PRESS STATEMENT, HE COULD TELL ME ANYTHING REGARDING CURRENT EPMG RESPONSE TO NIMEIRI'S PROPOSAL. AFTER SOME EVASIVE REFERENCES TO NIMEIRI'S "SINCERITY," HE FINALLY SAID THAT THE EPMG IS CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN SOME PRELIMINARY NEGOTIATIONS "WITH THE SUDANESE" DESIGNED TO WORK OUT PRECISE WAYS AND MEANS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ADDIS 03108 171106Z

OF IMPLEMENTING NIMEIRI'S MEDIATION PROPOSAL.

3. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF THE PMAC'S DIFFICULTY WITH THE WORD "DIRECT," WE RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT CONSIDER WHETHER THE PROPOSED STATEMENT WOULD BE SERIOUSLY WEAKENED BY THE ELIMINATION OF THE WORK. END COMMENT.

4. GETACHEW SAID THE PMAC WOULD STRONGLY PREFER ELIMINATION OF THE PRECISE DOLLAR FIGURE. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION HE SAID THAT SOMALIA AND THE ERITREAN INSURGENTS MIGHT DRAW THE UNFORTUNATE CONCLUSION FROM THIS FIGURE THAT THE USG IS PROVIDING ONLY "RELUCTANT" SUPPORT TO THE EPMG AT THIS JUNCTURE. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE PRESS STATEMENT TALK INSTEAD ABOUT SELLING ETHIOPIA "A REASONABLE AMOUNT OF AMMUNITION TO MEET ITS CURRENT NEEDS."

5. GETACHEW SAID THE PMAC IS ALSO UNHAPPY WITH THE ONE-SIDED REFERENCE TO ETHIOPIAN ATROCITIES. HE FORESAW A "VIOLENT PRESS REACTION" IN ETHIOPIA IF THE PRESENT LANGUAGE IS USED. HE RECOMMENDED THAT THE USG EXPRESS REGRET THAT SOME ATROCITIES HAVE BEEN COMMITTED ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ERITREAN CONFLICT. ONCE AGAIN HE POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS THE INSURGENTS WHO HAD CHOSEN TO WAGE WAREFARE WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF ASMARA.

6. IN THE DISCUSSION OF THE ATROCITIES ISSUE, GETACHEW REFERRED TO A RECENT PRESS STATEMENT BY THE ICRC SAYING THAT THE EPMG HAD REFUSED TO ALLOW THE ICRC TO FUNCTION IN ERITREA. HE SAID THIS WAS NOT TRUE BECAUSE THE EPMG "HAS NOT COMPLETELY CLOSED THE DOOR" ON THE ICRC IN THIS REGARD.
WYMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, AMMUNITION, POLICIES, NEGOTIATIONS, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ADDIS03108
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750092-0479
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750346/aaaabotq.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 ADDIS ABABA 3099
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUN 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <15 DEC 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS GUIDANCE ON ETHIOPIAN AMMUNITION RESUPPLY
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, US, ET
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006